MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): The estimate has not been prepared. The Chief Engineer has already directed the Division Officer to prepare it.

Double-shift System.

19. **MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI** (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Will the Government be pleased to call for and place on the table a report as to the suitability or otherwise of the double-shift system in the primary schools in Travancore?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): The Government received a report on the subject from the Director of Public Instruction. After careful consideration of the question, they have ordered the discontinuance of the system with effect from the beginning of the school year 1928-29. Government do not see the necessity to place the report on the table.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): On whose report was this double-shift system first introduced?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): On the report of the Director of Public Instruction. It was introduced as an experiment.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Was it on the recommendation of the previous Inspector of Schools or the present Inspector?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It was on the recommendation of the previous Inspector of Schools.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Was it an original idea with him or did he copy it from elsewhere?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I think the system was prevailing somewhere else. I think it was in Bombay.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Is it a failure there?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): I cannot say. It has been proved to be a failure here.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): Were all aspects of the question regarding the system fully considered by the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): What does the Director of Public Instruction now say on the matter?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): He says it has been now proved to be a failure.

MR K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum* cum *Neduvangad*): What is it due to?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): There has been fall in the number of pupils attending the schools of the double-shift

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system and the persons consulted, namely, the Inspector of Vernacular Schools, the majority of the Assistant Inspectors of Schools and the majority of the Headmasters, were against the system.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Is it not due to the fact that this system entailed some personal inconvenience on the Headmasters?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It may be, but they get an allowance for the purpose. Even if there is personal inconvenience it may be presumed that the Headmaster would put up with it for the sake of the allowance.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Was the fact of the strain on the minds of four or five year old children by a system of imparting education continually for five hours in the day carefully considered by the Government?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Yes. On the other hand, there are disadvantages which far outweigh the one that the member says.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Was the strain on the child's mind negligible?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): It is not quite negligible, but the disadvantages far outweigh the advantages to be gained by the double-shift system.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): Does the failure of the system consist only in the number of pupils falling away?

MR. K GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): No; there are several other objections also.

MR. K. MADHAVAN PILLAI (*Trivandrum cum Neduvangad*): What is the objection to placing the report on the table?

MR. K. GEORGE (*Chief Secretary to Government*): Government thought that it was unnecessary as the discontinuance of the system has been ordered but if the member wants to see the report, I shall take steps to place it on the table before the close of this Session.*

Report of the Navigation Special Officer.

20. **MR. A. J. JOHN** (*Vaikam*): With reference to the answers to question No. 94 asked on the 11th August 1926 (Vol. IX, No. 6) and question No. 279 asked on the 30th April 1927 (Vol. X, No. 9), will the Government be pleased to place on the table a copy of the report of the Navigation Special Officer?

MR. N. NILAKANTA PILLAI (*Secretary to Government*): A copy of the report of the Special Officer has been supplied to the members.

Pallipuram-Kadutturutti Road.

21. **MR. A. J. JOHN** (*Vaikam*): With reference to the representation made by the member for the Vaikam taluk in the Sri Mulam Popular

* *Vide* Appendix A to Vol. XII, No. 6.

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